



# Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 1997 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Slightly more than half of all unintended pregnancies occur to the 10% of American women who report that they do not use birth control.<sup>1</sup> Access to family planning services is critical for the prevention of unintended pregnancy. For many women, especially low income women and women without health insurance, access to family planning services is the only point of access to the healthcare system. During a visit to receive family planning services, they receive basic preventive healthcare such as Pap smears as well as screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.

The State of California has been offering family planning services for low income women in California since 1973. In the last few years, there have been many changes in the public and private provision of family planning services. The 1997 implementation of

the new statewide family planning program, Family PACT, was designed to improve access to family planning services among low income women who have no other source of healthcare.

The 1997 California Women's Health Survey asked women who are at risk of pregnancy, **"When did you last have a visit with a health provider to talk about birth control?"**

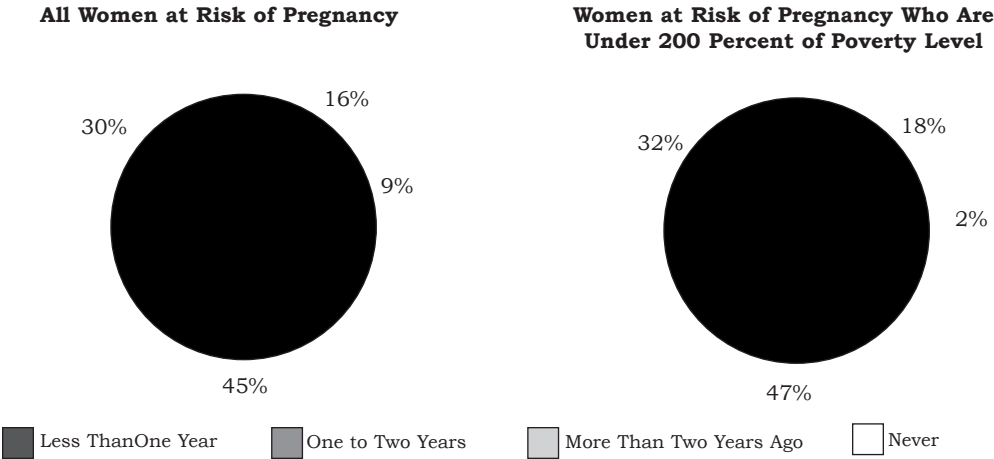
- Compared to women in the population as a whole, never-married women more frequently report having had a visit to a provider to talk about birth control in the past year.
- Low income women least frequently report having had a visit within the past year.
- Foreign born women are more likely than native born women to report that they have never visited a health provider to discuss family planning.

**ACCESS TO  
FAMILY  
PLANNING  
SERVICES**

*Office of Family  
Planning*

1 Alan Guttmacher Institute, Issues in Brief: Contraception Counts. AGI home page.

**Time Since Last Visit to a Health Provider to Talk About Birth Control  
Among Women Who Are At Risk of Pregnancy;  
California, 1997**



**Public Health Message:**

*Low income women are less likely than other women to report a recent visit to a health care provider to discuss family planning services.*

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